

# Current Issues in Waste and Planning – an Industry Perspective

RTPI South West

recycling and recovery UK

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ready for the resource revolution



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# About SUEZ

- Part of the global SUEZ group, SUEZ recycling and recovery UK employs over 5,000 people.
- Over the course of a year, we handle over 10 million tonnes of waste. Our company's diverse activities are guided by a vision to engineer a society where there is no more waste.
- Established in the UK in 1988, we help to reduce the environmental impact of our customers' waste by recycling and extracting the value from it.
- Our goal is to help create a circular economy in which nearly all waste materials are given a second life and reused, recycled or recovered for their energy content

# About SUEZ

We operate from over 200 sites in the UK, including:

- Energy from Waste
- End of Life Plastics
- Refuse Derived Fuel
- Solid Recovered Fuel
- Transfer Stations
- Mechanical Biological Treatment
- Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Landfills...



# About SUEZ

In the South West:

- Cornwall Integrated Waste Management Contract
- Devon County Household Waste Recycling Centre Contract;
- East Devon Collection Contract
- Somerset Waste Collection Contract
- We have 640ktpa Recovery capacity in at Severnside and Cornwall



# Direction and Speed of Travel

# Direction and Speed of Travel

***“The UK will work towards being a Zero Avoidable Waste economy by 2050***

*14. Zero avoidable waste equates to eliminating all waste where it is technologically, environmentally and economically practicable to do so and working to support innovation in new materials, products and processes that extend the range of materials covered by this categorisation.”*



# Direction and Speed of Travel

*“We will take further measures to strengthen the markets for secondary materials”*

*“We will work with industry to explore options to introduce electronic tracking of waste. This will support the development of new markets for waste materials and improve the efficiency of enforcement, creating a level playing field for the waste and resources sector.”*





# Direction and Speed of Travel

*“We must tread more lightly on our planet, using resources more wisely and radically reducing the waste we generate. Waste is choking our landscapes as well as contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and scarring habitats.”*



A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment



# Direction and Speed of Travel

*“The commission recommends that government should establish separate food waste collection for households and businesses (to enable production of biogas) by 2025.”*

*“The commission recommends that government should set a target for recycling 65% of municipal waste and 75% of plastic packaging by 2030.”*



# Direction and Speed of Travel

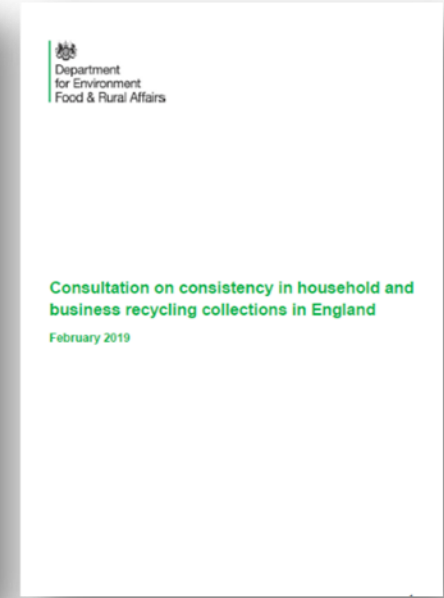
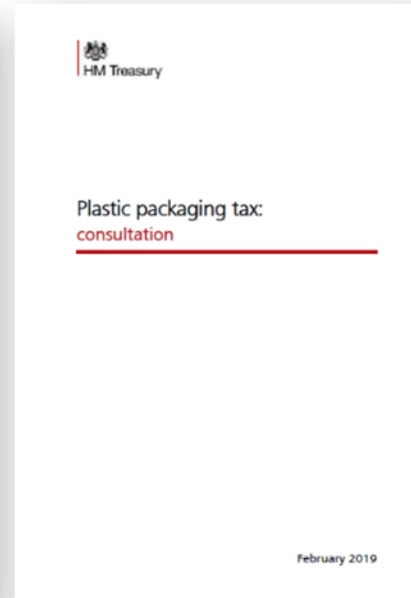
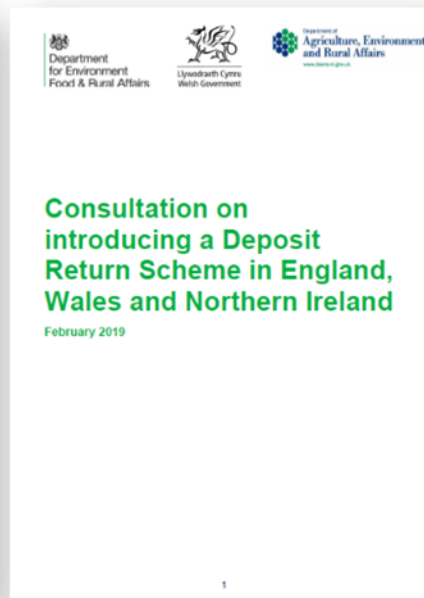
*“In recent decades this country has been making progress on how it manages waste and resources... The planet needs us to do more. And with this Strategy we will go further, faster.”*

*“We want to promote UK-based recycling and export less waste to be processed abroad”*

*“The Government is committed to spending £3bn by 2042 on developing new waste infrastructure.”*



# Direction and Speed of Travel



John Scanlon, chief executive of SUEZ recycling and recovery UK - “We look to the final form of the *Bill* to create **investable conditions**, where businesses can put environmental considerations at the forefront of their activities, guided by a clear commonly understood direction of travel supported by transparent targets and simple delivery mechanisms.”

# Direction and Speed of Travel

*“transform the way we manage our waste – through powers that enable us to require producers to take more responsibility for the products... introducing a consistent approach to recycling, tackling waste crime, creating powers to introduce bottle deposit return schemes and having more effective litter enforcement. A power to stop the export of polluting plastic waste to less developed countries will ensure we deal with more of our waste at home and lighten our footprint on the planet...”*

News story

## **Environment Bill sets out vision for a greener future**

Landmark Bill will better protect our natural environment for generations to come.

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Published 30 January 2020

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [The Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP](#)



The Environment Bill has been introduced to Parliament

# Direction and Speed of Travel

The direction of travel has been set and the wheels are in motion.

What can the planning system do to assist delivery?

More critically, what part can we play as professional planners?



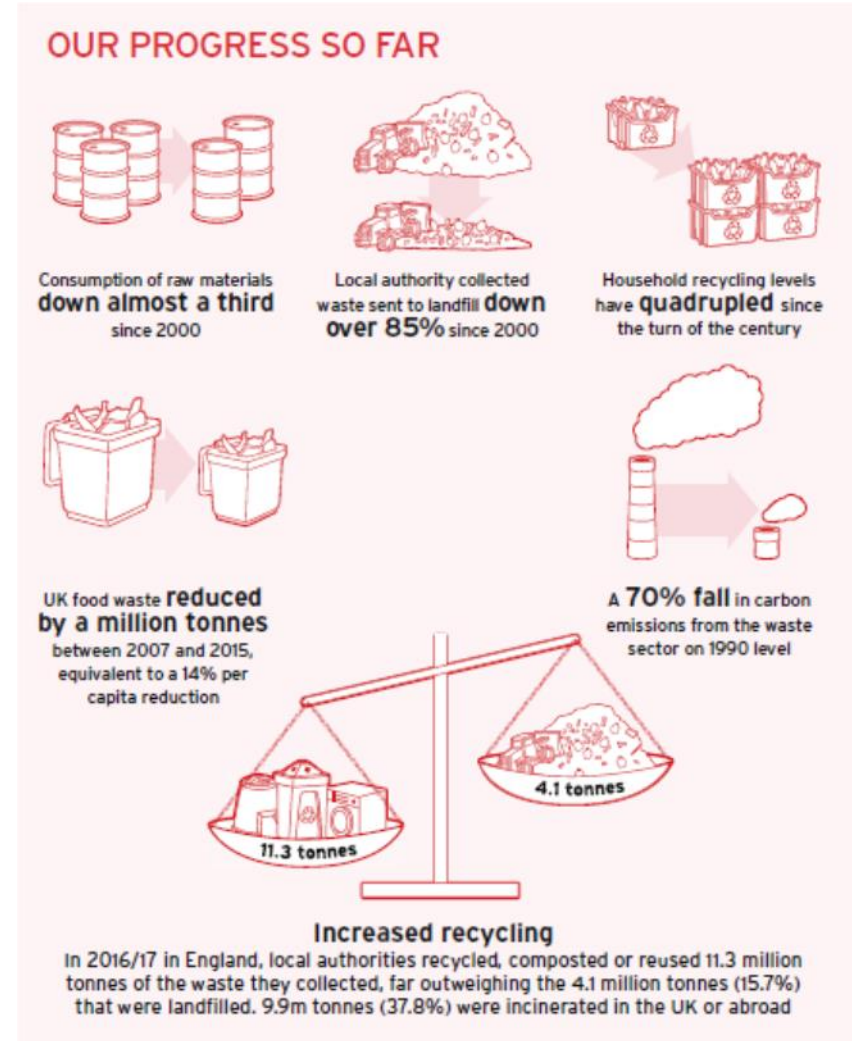
# Capacity and Need

# Capacity and Need

Significant reduction in landfill since 2000;

Recycling levels have quadrupled since the turn of the century but are stagnating.

England has approximately 10.5Mt of EfW operational capacity dedicated to treating municipal and/or commercial waste, enough to treat around 36% of municipal waste at current levels (Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England 2018)





# Capacity and Need

SUEZ own 'Mind the Gap' residual waste infrastructure assessment identifies a significant capacity gap.

Constantly under review – export uncertainty

|  | UK residual waste treatment capacity gap (million tonnes) |      |      |
|--|---|------|------|
|  | 2017  | 2025 | 2030 |
| Total UK waste arisings  | 32.2  | 30.8 | 30.4 |
| Total UK treatment capacity (energy-from-waste + exports + others) | 18.6  | 26.2 | 28.0 |
| Net residual capacity gap  | 13.6  | 4.6  | 2.4  |



# Capacity and Need

*“The sector will need these revenues and others to help fund at least the £26 billion to £35 billion of new investment noted in this report and that is required to deliver all of the outcomes wanted by government and society.”*



**the economics of change  
in the resources and  
waste sector**



# Capacity and Need

Significant additional infrastructure will be necessary:

- Residual waste (EfW etc)
- Packaging and processing (MRF etc)
- Food waste treatment (AD/IVC)
- Green waste (Open Windrow)
- Transfer Stations/ Bulking



# Capacity and Need

There will be innovation and there must be flexibility to deliver, but

- Immediately, technologies are likely to be proven/bankable – EfW.
- Medium term – more AD and Chemical Recycling?
- Emergence of infrastructure road map / secondary resource hubs



# Delivery and Lessons Learned

# Delivery and Lessons Learned

As a developer we tend to be fairly 'reactive' and respond to contract opportunities to provide 'bankable' facilities.

We do not tend to speculate on site acquisition and promote through long term waste plan processes.



# Delivery and Lessons Learned



However, there is still a role for allocations as well as general ‘area based policies’

# Delivery and Lessons Learned



- Officers report was able to reflect that the site was a strategic site allocated for large scale built waste management facilities – principle was established.
- Assisted in communications and provided clarity for decision makers.



# Delivery and Lessons Learned

It is important to take account of the local circumstances and market:

There can be a focus on existing and new industrial / employment sites where existing sites and structures may not be suitable



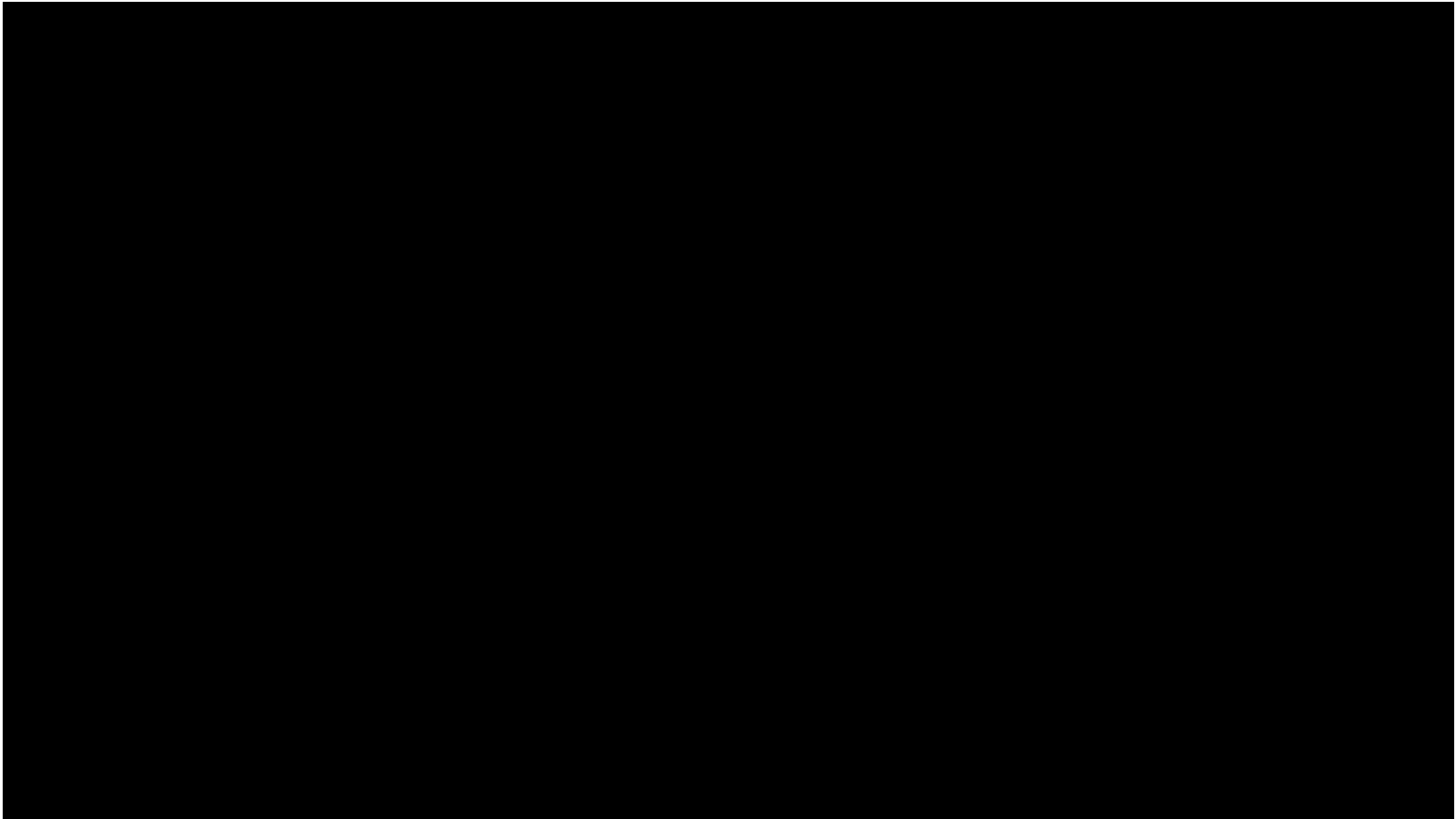
# Delivery and Lessons Learned



Example of a modern site in Aberdeen – providing multiple functions as MRF / RDF and vehicle depot.

- Greenfield site
- Around 4 hectares / 10 acres
- Edge of industrial estate
- Safeguarded for waste use – pressure for other uses?

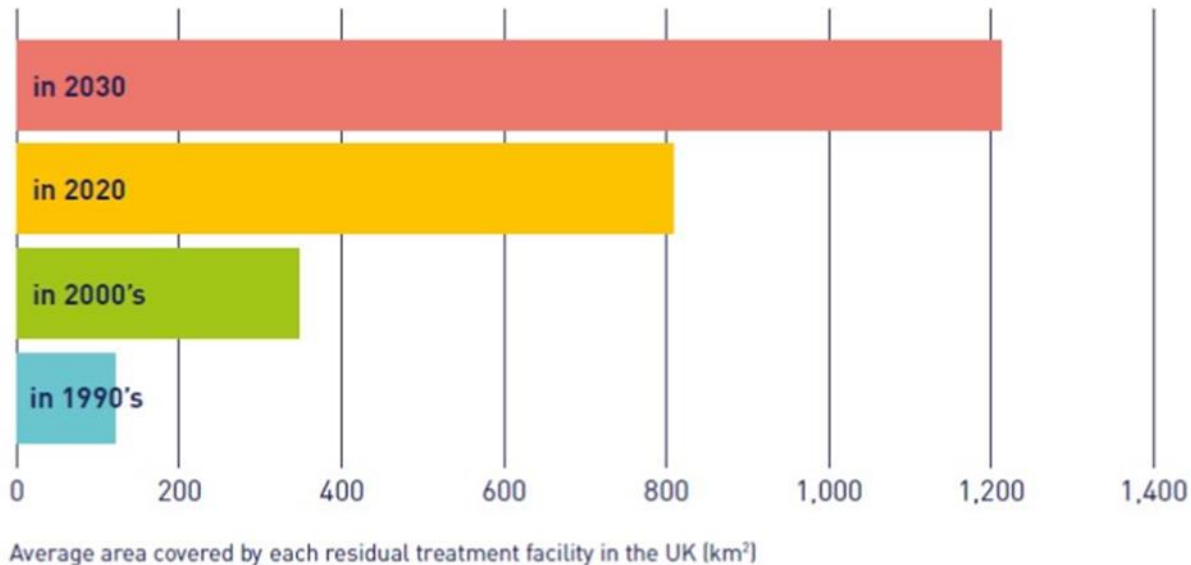
# Delivery and Lessons Learned



<https://youtu.be/HOu6-eTB-no>

# Delivery and Lessons Learned

↓ AREA COVERAGE FOR RESIDUAL TREATMENT FACILITIES –  
1990'S TO 2030



- Our data suggests that residual treatment facilities are getting larger in size and serving a wider area – size of site and flexibility of transport / accessibility will be critical.

# Delivery and Lessons Learned

## NPPF Para 4:

“4. The Framework should be read in conjunction with the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites, and its planning policy for waste.”

11. Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

For **plan-making** this means that:

- a) plans should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area, and be sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change;
- b) strategic policies should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses, as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas<sup>5</sup>, unless:
  - i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area<sup>6</sup>; or
  - ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.

For **decision-taking** this means:

- c) approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay; or
- d) where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies which are most important for determining the application are out-of-date<sup>7</sup>, granting permission unless:
  - i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed<sup>6</sup>; or
  - ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.

# Delivery and Lessons Learned

## Recent Waste Plan Consultation:

*“New waste sites will not be permitted”*

*“waste dumping ground”*

*“Consider the advantages of the co-location of waste facilities with the **negative cumulative effects of a concentration of waste uses in one area;**”*

*“Waste facilities have the potential to generate a large number of amenity issues”*



# Communication is Key

# Communication is Key

Despite growing awareness about waste and recycling, proposals can remain controversial.

- Establish relationships
- Communicate effectively and openly.
- Timing is critical

The screenshot shows a news article from the Lancashire Telegraph. The article is titled "Darwen Suez energy centre to get a moorland look" and is dated 27th May. It is written by Bill Jacobs, a Politics Correspondent. The article features an aerial photograph of a proposed energy recovery centre. To the right of the article is a "GET STARTED" button with a downward arrow, followed by the text "3 Easy Steps: 1. Click 'Get Started'". Below the article is a social media share bar with icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Messenger, and a red button indicating "6 comments".

LANCASHIRE  
**Telegraph**

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Epos Now™ - UK POS Experts - The UK's Trusted POS System  
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eposnow.com

News  
27th May  
**Darwen Suez energy centre to get a moorland look**  
By Bill Jacobs | @BillJacobsLT  
Politics Correspondent

GET STARTED

3 Easy Steps:  
1. Click "Get Started"

News  
16th March  
**Recycling firm promises to listen over new Darwen plant**  
By Bill Jacobs | @BillJacobsLT  
Politics Correspondent

An artists impression of the proposed energy recovery centre.

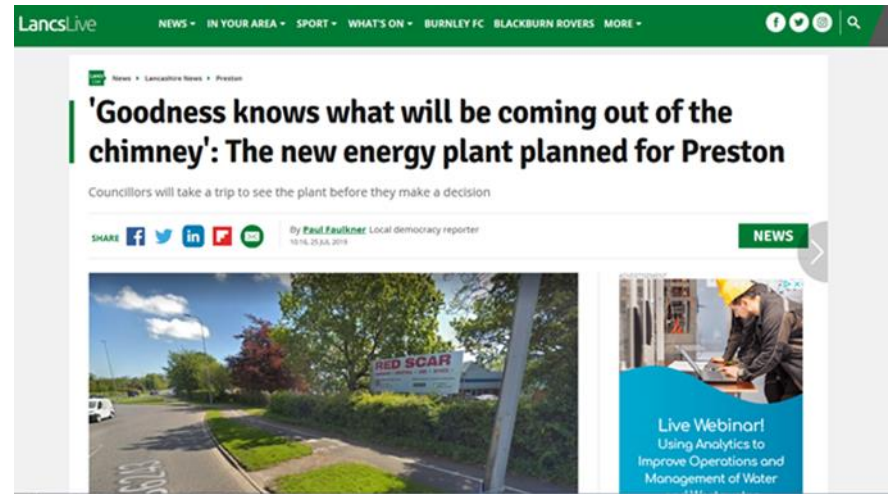
6 comments

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# Communication is Key

Reflect more about the positive experiences of waste and recycling.



# Summary

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In Summary:

- The market is continuing to evolve quickly.
- Likely to be significant further change.
- Direction of travel is uncertain.
- Flexibility in Waste Local Plan policies will be key.
- But certainty can also be delivered where appropriate.
- Collaboration will be critical.

## the circular economy model

